

Claim 24

This is standard for all tapes.

Regarding your comments in relation to Ten Caat et al

Claim 14

The coupling (3,4,7,9) ,described by Ten Caat et al ,all hinge independently as substantially flat plates and part (9) ,and so will not form a rigid 90 degree coupling, as does my tape, and so will not readily fit into a corner.

Claim 17

Anchor is substantially different as it does not form the inner section of hinge to permanent 90 degree coupling, rather it is base for various independent sections.

Claim 18

Ten caat et al coupling consists of individual plates which are substantially flat ,rather than single 90 degree coupling with inner and outer surfaces ,and radius around corner, made to be at zero point of scale when required, as anchor slides in and out on rivets to allow for thickness of plate sections, as known in prior art.

Claim 19

Ten caat et al show four independent parts where plates are substantially flat, plus elongate member to hinge independently of each other(fig 2) .

Seamus Grealy shows one anchor to elongate member which forms inner part of hinge to 90 degree coupling which hinges about anchor.

Claim 22

Backing plate (4) referred to by Ten caat et al is known in prior art, but forms a reinforcement at the rivets

Change of Claims

Claims 14-24 : Cancelled

New Claims as follows :

Claim 14 (new)

A measuring device comprising an elongate member; and a coupling in operative association with the elongate member, the coupling comprising a first section and a second section, wherein the first section and the second section are rigidly coupled to each other at 90 degrees relative to one another, the coupling being adapted to rotatably hinge to said elongate member, about an axis which lies substantially parallel to a transverse axis of the elongate member, between a first state in which the first section is disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the elongate member, to a second state in which the second section is disposed substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the elongate member.

Claim 15(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 14 wherein the axis about which the coupling is hinged lies substantially contiguous with a free end of the elongate member, while allowing for the inside or the outside surface of the first or second section, and the radius of the coupling to be at a zero point on the scale as required.

Claim 16(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 14 wherein the first section and the second section are disposed permanently substantially perpendicular to one another.

Claim 17(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 14 wherein the coupling is secured to the elongate member by means of an anchor, which forms the inner part of a hinge to the coupling.

Claim 18(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 17 comprising a pin arranged to secure the coupling to the anchor, the pin defining the axis about which the coupling is hinged , and the centre point of a radius between the first section and the second section.

Claim 19(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 18 in which one or other of the coupling or anchor has a pair of spaced apart collars , while the other of the coupling or anchor has a single collar shaped and dimensioned to be seated between the pair of spaced apart collars, wherein the pin passes through the three collars in order to secure the coupling to the anchor.

Claim 20(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 14 wherein the coupling is displaceable , in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the elongate member, a distance substantially equal to a first state wherein the first section is 90 degrees above the elongate member to a second state where the second section is 90 degrees below the elongate member.

Claim 21(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 14 wherein the elongate member comprises a tape having measuring indicia thereon.

Claim 22(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 17 further comprising a backing plate secured, through the elongate member, to the anchor.

Claim 23(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 14 , **with a 90 degree coupling** , wherein a transition from the first section to the second section has a radius of curvature whose centre corresponds to the axis about which the coupling is hinged .

Claim 24(new)

A measuring device according to Claim 14 further comprising a housing into which the elongate member is retractable.